

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated May 4, 2005. Claims 1 to 35 are in the application, with Claims 33 to 35 having been newly-added. Claims 1, 10, 14, 15, 16 and 33 are the independent claims herein. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

The drawings were objected to for allegedly not depicting the claimed configuration dialog. The objection is respectfully traversed. In this regard, Applicants wish to direct the Examiner's attention to Figures 22 et seq., which as described in the specification, depicts a configuration dialog for configuring a BPPS. Thus, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph for an informality. The informality has been attended to by amendment. Thus, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Claims 17 to 19, 21 to 23, 25 to 27 and 29 to 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph for allegedly failing to meet the written description requirement. The rejections are traversed. In this regard, Applicants submit that Claims 17, 21, 25 and 29 are fully supported by Fig. 22 and the description provided at page 28, line 30 to page 29, line 11, Claims 18, 22, 26 and 30 are supported by Fig. 23 and the description provided at page 29, lines 12-30, and Claims 19, 23, 27 and 31 are supported by Fig. 60 and its accompanying description. Thus, since each of these figures depict actual screen shots of the invention in practice, there can be little doubt that the Applicants had possession of the claimed invention. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,345,288 (Reed). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

The present invention concerns configuration of a content providing application in a broadband printing service. According to the invention, there are three levels of configuration that can be performed with the content providing application: a service provider level, a multi-service operator level, and an end user level. The service provider level is a top level constituting, for example, a Broadband Printing and Photo Services provider configuring a parameter in the content providing application for providing a service. That is, a BPPS that provides the printing service configures a parameter in the content providing application to be able to provide content for printing from the content provider. On a second level, multi-service operators (e.g., a cable company) can configure the content providing application. The second level includes the ability to perform many of the same administrative operations that the service provider can perform, with the exception of being able to configure the a parameter to provide the service. Generally, each multi-service operator configures the content providing application as to which types of content they want to be available to end users (subscribers) of the printing service. Finally, at the third level, end users subscribe to the service via their respective multi-service operator, and can configure the content providing application as to which content they want to receive from among the content configured by the multi-service operator. Thus, the invention provides a streamlines process for configuring a broadband printing service by providing three levels of configuration based on the level of access.

Referring specifically to the claims, amended independent Claim 1 is a publication service interface between a service provider application and a content providing application in a network printing system, comprising functionality for configuring the interface for the service provider to interface with the content providing application on a first level, wherein the first level comprises service provider administration properties, wherein the service provider administration properties comprises a configuration operation for a parameter to provide a service provided by the service provider, functionality for configuring the interface for a multi-service operator to interface with the content providing application on a second level, wherein the second level comprises multi-service level administration properties that comprise a portion of the service provider administration properties which excludes the configuration operation for the parameter to provide the service provided by the service provider application, and functionality for configuring the interface for an end user to interface with the content providing application on a third level, wherein the third level comprises end user level administration properties that comprise a portion of the multi-service provider administration properties.

Amended independent Claims 10 and 14 are method claims, while amended independent Claims 15 and 16 are system claims, each of which substantially corresponds to Claim 1.

The applied art is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of the present invention, and in particular is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of configuring an interface for a service provider to interface with a content providing application on a first level, wherein the first level comprises service provider

administration properties including a configuration operation for a parameter to provide a service provided by the service provider, and configuring the interface for a multi-service operator to interface with the content providing application on a second level comprising a portion of the service provider administration properties which excludes the configuration operation for the parameter to provide the service provided by the service provider application.

Reed is merely seen to disclose that a provider computer and a consumer computer can communicate directly so that changes on the provider computer result in an updated version being transferred to the consumer computer. However, Reed is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of configuring an interface for a service provider to interface with a content providing application on a first level, wherein the first level comprises service provider administration properties including a configuration operation for a parameter to provide a service provided by the service provider, and configuring the interface for a multi-service operator to interface with the content providing application on a second level comprising a portion of the service provider administration properties which excludes the configuration operation for the parameter to provide the service provided by the service provider application.

In view of the foregoing, amended independent Claims 1, 10 and 14 to 16, as well as the claims dependent therefrom, are believed to be allowable.

In another aspect as defined in newly-added independent Claim 33, the invention is a service managing device, comprising first determining means for determining whether a user who accesses the service managing device has a first authority to initially set a service providing content, executing means for executing the initial setting

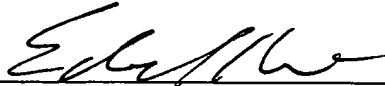
of the service content when the first determining means determines that the user has the authority to initially set the service content, and second determining means for determining whether the user has a second authority to execute a control process of the service excluding the authority to initially set the service content, wherein the executing means executes the service control process when the second determining means that the user has the second authority.

The art of record is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of Claim 33, and in particular, is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of determining whether a user who accesses a service managing device has a first authority to initially set a service providing content, executing the initial setting of the service content when it is determined that the user has the authority to initially set the service content, and determining whether the user has a second authority to execute a control process of the service excluding the authority to initially set the service content, wherein the executing of the service control process is performed when it is determined that the user has the second authority.

No other matters having been raised, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa,
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our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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